

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/002,685

Examiner

Thuong (Tina) T. Nguyen

Applicant(s)

LAGARDE ET AL.

Art Unit

2155

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 4/30/07.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,6-13,18-25,30-37,42-49,52,56-64 and 67.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


SALEH NAJJAR
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

Examiner's Amendment

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Applicant's Representative, Jon Gibbons, (Reg. No. 37,333), on 5/8/07.
3. The application has been amended as follow:
In the claims:
4. Claims 1-70 are amended as following:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended): A system for transmitting messages from a client messaging application to an autonomous computer program that acts as an agent for another program, the system comprising:
a first interface mutually registered with at least one of a plurality of client messaging applications, the interface for performing the steps of:
receiving a message from the at least one of the plurality of client messaging applications, wherein the message includes a request for information to query at least one informational database for returning an information set back to client messaging application; and
translating a calling convention of the message to a calling convention of a base code;

a computer communicatively coupled to the first interface, the computer for performing the steps of:

determining, based on the request for information, ~~[[the]]~~a destination of the message, wherein the destination is an autonomous computer program that acts as an agent for a client-user for accessing an the at least one informational database; and

selecting the autonomous computer program determined to be the destination of the message for accessing the informational database to retrieve the informational associated with the request for information set; and

a second interface coupled to the computer, the second interface for performing the steps of:

translating, in response to the selecting, the message in the calling convention of the base code to a calling convention of the autonomous computer program determined to be the destination of the message; ~~and~~

transmitting, in response to the translating, the message to the ~~selected~~ autonomous computer program which has been determined to be the destination of the message without further user intervention~~[[.]]~~;

receiving information from the autonomous computer program in a return message; and

translating a calling convention of the return message to the calling convention of the base code;

at the computer, further performing the step of:

determining the destination of the return message, wherein the destination is
a client messaging application; and
at the first interface, further performing the steps of:
selecting the client messaging application determined to be the destination of
the message;
translating the calling convention of the message in the base code to the
calling convention of the selected client messaging application determined to be the
destination of the message; and
transmitting the message to the client messaging application determined to
be the destination of the message.

Claims 2-5 (cancelled)

6. (previously presented): The system of claim 1, wherein the first interface comprises:

An Application Programming Interface for interfacing with a plurality of mutually registered client messaging applications and for registering with at least one of the plurality of client messaging applications.

7. (currently amended): The system of claim [[4]] 1, wherein the second interface comprises:

an Application Programming Interface for translating the request for information to the autonomous computer program and for translating the return message to the computer.

8. (previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the client messaging application comprises an instant messaging application for sending and receiving instant messages.

9. (previously presented): The system of claim 8, wherein the instant messaging application comprises any one of:

- Lotus Sametime Messaging;
- America Online Instant Messenger;
- MSN Messenger Service;
- Yahoo Messenger;
- ICQ;
- Jabber Instant Messaging; and
- a Telnet utility.

10. (previously presented): The system of claim 1, wherein the autonomous computer program comprises a messaging server.

11. (previously presented): The system of claim 10, wherein the messaging server comprises any one of:

- an IBM MQSeries server;
- a Microsoft Transaction server;
- a Lotus Domino server; and
- an LDAP utility.

12. (currently amended): The system of claim ~~[[4]]~~ 1, wherein the autonomous computer program retrieves the requested information from any one of:

- a personal finance database;
- a stock market database;
- a personal contact database;

a web site;

an FTP site; and

a gopher site.

13. (currently amended): A system for transmitting messages from a client messaging application to a plurality of autonomous computer programs that act as agents for other programs, the system comprising:

a first interface connected to and mutually registered with a client messaging application, the client messaging application for performing the steps of:

receiving a message from the client messaging application via the interface, wherein the message includes a request ~~for information~~ to query at least one informational database for returning an information set back to client messaging application; and

translating a calling convention of the message to a calling convention of a base code;

a computer communicatively coupled to the first interface, the computer for performing the steps of:

determining, based on the request ~~for information~~, ~~[[the]]~~ a destination of the message, wherein the destination is one of a plurality of autonomous computer programs that act as agents for a client-user for accessing ~~an~~ the at least one informational database; and

selecting the autonomous computer program from the plurality of autonomous computer programs determined to be the destination of the message

for accessing the informational database to retrieve the informational associated
~~with the request for information set~~; and

a second interface connected to the computer, the second interface for performing
the steps of:

translating, in response to the selecting, the message in the calling
convention of the base code to a calling convention of the autonomous computer
program; and

transmitting, in response to the translating, the message to the autonomous
computer program which has been determined to be the destination of the
message[.];

receiving information from the autonomous computer program in a return
message; and

translating a calling convention of the return message to the calling
convention of the base code;

at the computer, further performing the step of:

determining the destination of the return message, wherein the destination is
the client messaging application; and

at the first interface, further performing the steps of:

selecting the client messaging application determined to be the destination of
the message;

translating the message in the calling convention of the base code to the
calling convention of the selected client messaging application determined to be the

destination of the message; and

transmitting the message to the client messaging application determined to
be the destination of the message.

Claims 14-17 (cancelled)

18. (previously presented): The system of claim 13, wherein the first interface comprises:

an Application Programming Interface for interfacing with the client messaging application and for registering with the plurality of client messaging application.

19. (currently amended): The system of claim [[16]] 13, wherein the second interface comprises:

an Application Programming Interface for translating the request for information to the autonomous computer program determined to be the destination of the message and for translating the return message to the computer.

20. (previously presented): The system of claim 13, wherein the client messaging application comprises an instant messaging application for sending and receiving instant messages.

21. (previously presented): The system of claim 20, wherein the instant messaging application comprises any one of:

Lotus Sametime Messaging;

America Online Instant Messenger;

MSN Messenger Service;

Yahoo Messenger;

ICQ;

Jabber Instant Messaging; and
a Telnet utility.

22. (previously presented): The system of claim 13, wherein each of the plurality of autonomous computer programs comprise a messaging server.

23. (previously presented): The system of claim 22, wherein the messaging server comprises any one of:

an IBM MQSeries server;
a Microsoft Transaction server;
a Lotus Domino server; and
an LDAP utility.

24. (currently amended) The system of claim ~~[[16]]~~ 13, wherein each of the plurality of autonomous computer programs retrieve the requested information from any one of:

a personal finance database;
a stock market database;
a personal contact database;
a web site;
an FTP site; and
a gopher site.

25. (currently amended): A system for transmitting messages from a plurality of client messaging applications to a plurality of autonomous computer programs that act as an agent for other programs, the system comprising:

a first interface mutually registered with at least one of a plurality of client messaging applications, the first interface for performing the steps of:

receiving a message from the at least one of the plurality of client messaging applications, wherein the message includes a request ~~for information~~ to query at least one informational database for returning an information set back to client messaging application; and

translating a calling convention of the message to a calling convention of a base code;

a computer communicatively coupled to the first interface, the computer for performing the steps of:

determining, based on the request ~~for information~~, ~~[[the]]~~ a destination of the message, wherein the destination is one of a plurality of autonomous computer programs that act as an agent for a client-user for accessing ~~an~~ the at least one informational database; and

selecting one of a plurality of autonomous computer programs determined to be the destination of the message for accessing the informational database to retrieve the informational ~~associated with the request for information set~~; and

a second interface coupled to the computer, the second interface for performing the steps of:

translating, in response to the selecting, the message in the calling convention of the base code to a calling convention of the autonomous computer

program determined to be the destination of the message; and

transmitting, in response to the translating, the message to the selected autonomous computer program which has been determined to be the destination of the message without user intervention[.];

receiving information from the autonomous computer program in a return message; and

translating a calling convention of the return message to the calling convention of the base code;

at the computer, further performing the steps of:

determining the destination of the return message, wherein the destination is one of a plurality of client messaging applications; and

selecting the client messaging application determined to be the destination of the message; and

at the first interface, further performing the steps of:

translating the message in the calling convention of the base code to the calling convention of the selected client messaging application determined to be the destination of the message; and

transmitting the message to the client messaging application determined to be the destination of the message.

Claims 26-29. (cancelled)

30. (previously presented): The system of claim 25, wherein the first interface comprises:

an Application Programming Interface for interfacing with a plurality of mutually registered client messaging applications and for registering with at least one of the plurality of client messaging applications.

31. (currently amended): The system of claim ~~[[28]]~~ 25, wherein the second interface comprises:

an Application Programming Interface for translating the request for information to the autonomous computer program determined to be the destination of the message and for translating the return message to the computer.

32. (previously presented): The system of claim 25, wherein each of the plurality of client messaging applications comprise an instant messaging application for sending and receiving instant messages.

33. (previously presented): The system of claim 32, wherein the instant messaging application comprises any one of:

Lotus Sametime Messaging;

America Online Instant Messenger;

MSN Messenger Service;

Yahoo Messenger;

ICQ;

Jabber Instant Messaging; and

a Telnet utility.

34. (previously presented): The system of claim 25, wherein each of the plurality of autonomous computer programs comprise a messaging server.

35. (previously presented): The system of claim 34, wherein the messaging server comprises any one of:

- an IBM MQSeries server;
- a Microsoft Transaction server;
- a Lotus Domino server; and
- an LDAP utility.

36. (currently amended): The system of claim ~~[[28]]~~ 25, wherein each of the plurality of autonomous computer programs retrieve the requested information from any one of:

- a personal finance database;
- a stock market database;
- a personal contact database;
- a web site;
- an FTP site; and
- a gopher site.

37. (currently amended): A method for transmitting messages from a client messaging application to an autonomous computer program that acts as an agent for another program, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a message from one of a plurality of client messaging applications, wherein the message includes a request for information to query at least one informational database for returning an information set back to client messaging application;

translating a calling convention of the message to a calling convention of a base code;

determining, based on the request ~~for information~~ a destination of the message, wherein the destination is an autonomous computer program that acts as an agent for a client-user for accessing ~~an~~ the at least one informational database;

selecting the autonomous computer program determined to be the destination of the message for accessing the informational database to retrieve the informational associated ~~with the request for information set~~;

translating, in response to the selecting, the message in the calling convention of the base code to a calling convention of the autonomous computer program determined to be the destination of the message; and

transmitting, in response to the translating, the message to the ~~selected~~ autonomous computer program which has been determined to be the destination of the message without user intervention[[.]];

receiving information from the autonomous computer program in a return message;

translating a calling convention of the return message to the calling convention of the base code;

determining the destination of the return message, wherein the destination is one of a plurality of client messaging applications;

selecting the client messaging application determined to be the destination of the message;

translating the message in the calling convention of the base code to the calling convention of the selected client messaging application determined to be the destination of the message; and

transmitting the message to the client messaging application determined to be the destination of the message.

Claims 38-41. (cancelled)

42. (previously presented): The method of claim 37, wherein the first receiving step comprises:

receiving, via an Application Programming Interface, a message from one of a plurality of client messaging applications, wherein the Application Programming Interface interfaces with the plurality of mutually registered client messaging applications and registers with at least one of the plurality of client messaging applications.

43. (currently amended): The method of claim ~~[[40]]~~ 37, wherein the translation is performed by an Application Programming Interface.

44. (previously presented): The method of claim 43, further comprising a step before the second transmitting step of:

translating, by the Application Programming Interface, the return message to the client messaging application.

45. (previously presented): The method of claim 37, wherein each of the plurality of client messaging applications comprise an instant messaging application for sending and receiving instant messages.

46. (previously presented): The method of claim 45, wherein the instant messaging application comprises any one of:

Lotus Sametime Messaging;

America Online Instant Messenger;

MSN Messenger Service;
Yahoo Messenger;
ICQ;
Jabber Instant Messaging; and
a Telnet utility.

47 (previously presented): The method of claim 37, wherein the autonomous computer program comprises a messaging server.

48. (previously presented): The method of claim 47, wherein the messaging server comprises any one of:

an IBM MQSeries server;
a Microsoft Transaction server;
a Lotus Domino server; and
an LDAP utility.

49. (currently amended): The method of claim ~~[[40]]~~ 37, wherein the autonomous computer program retrieves the requested information from any one of:

a personal finance database;
a stock market database;
a personal contact database;
a web site;
an FTP site; and
a gopher site.

Claims 50-51 (cancelled)

52. (currently amended): A computer readable storage medium embedded computer instructions for transmitting messages from a plurality of client messaging applications to an autonomous computer program that acts as an agent for another program, the computer instructions comprising instructions for:

receiving a message from one of a plurality of client messaging applications, wherein the message includes a request ~~for information~~ to query at least one informational database for returning an information set back to client messaging application;

translating a calling convention of the message to a calling convention of a base code;

determining, based on the request ~~for information~~, a destination of the message, wherein the destination is a an autonomous computer program that acts as an agent for a client-user for accessing an the at least one informational database;

selecting the autonomous computer program determined to be the destination of the message for accessing the informational database to retrieve the informational associated ~~with the request for information set~~;

translating, in response to the selecting, the message in the calling convention of the base code to a calling convention of the autonomous computer program determined to be the destination of the message; ~~and~~

transmitting, in response to the translating, the message to the ~~selected~~ autonomous computer program which has been determined to be the destination of the message without user intervention[.].]

receiving information from the autonomous computer program in a return message;

translating a calling convention of the return message to the calling convention of the base code;

determining a destination of the return message, wherein the destination is one of the plurality of client messaging applications;

selecting the client messaging application determined to be the destination of the message; and

transmitting the message to the client messaging application determined to be the destination of the message.

Claims 53-55 (cancelled)

56. (currently amended): The computer readable medium of claim [[55]] 52, further comprising the instruction of:

translating the base code calling convention of the return message to the calling convention of the client messaging application determined to be the destination of the message.

57. (previously presented): The computer readable medium of claim 52, wherein the first receiving step comprises:

receiving, via an Application Programming Interface, a message from one of a plurality of client messaging applications, wherein the Application Programming Interface interfaces with the plurality of mutually registered client messaging applications and registers with at least one of the plurality of client messaging applications.

58. (currently amended): The computer readable medium of claim [[55]] 52, wherein the translation is performed by an Application Programming Interface.

59. (previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 58, further comprising a step before the second transmitting step of:

translating, by the Application Programming Interface, the base code calling convention of the return message to the calling convention of the client messaging application determined to be the destination of the message.

60. (previously presented): The computer readable medium of claim 52, wherein the client messaging application comprises an instant messaging application for sending and receiving instant messages.

61 (previously presented): The computer readable medium of claim 60, wherein the instant messaging application comprises any one of:

Lotus Sametime Messaging;

America Online Instant Messenger;

MSN Messenger Service;

Yahoo Messenger;

ICQ;

Jabber Instant Messaging; and

a Telnet utility.

62. (previously presented): The computer readable medium of claim 52, wherein the autonomous computer program comprises a messaging server.

63. (previously presented): The computer readable medium of claim 62, wherein the messaging server comprises any one of:

an IBM MQSeries server;

- a Microsoft Transaction server;
- a Lotus Domino server; and
- an LDAP utility.

64. (currently amended): The computer readable medium of claim [[55]] 52, wherein the autonomous computer program retrieves the requested information from any one of:

- a personal finance database;
- a stock market database;
- a personal contact database;
- a web site;
- an FTP site; and
- a gopher site.

Claims 65-66 (cancelled)

67. (currently amended): A method for providing access to an autonomous computer program that acts as an agent for another program via an instant messaging application, comprising the steps of:

- receiving from at least one instant messaging application an instant message including a request ~~for information~~ to query at least one informational database for returning an information set back to client messaging application;

- translating a calling convention of the instant message to a calling convention of a base code;

determining, based on the request ~~for information~~, a destination of the instant message, wherein the destination is an autonomous computer program that acts as an agent for a client-user for accessing ~~an~~ the at least one informational database;

selecting the autonomous computer program determined to be the destination of the message for accessing the informational database to retrieve the informational associated ~~with the request for information set~~;

translating, in response to the selecting, the base code calling convention of the request for information in the instant message into a calling convention compatible with the autonomous computer program determined to be the destination of the instant message; and

transmitting, in response to the translating, the translated request for information to the autonomous computer program, wherein the autonomous computer program processes the translated request for information, without user intervention[.]]

receiving information from the autonomous computer program;

generating an instant message including the received information; and

sending the generated instant message to the instant messaging application.

Claims 68-70. (cancelled)

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

5. Claims 1, 6-13, 18-25, 30-37, 42-49, 52, 56-64, & 67 are allowed.
6. Claims 2-5, 14-17, 26-29, 38-41, 50-51, 53-55, 65-66, & 68-70 are canceled.
7. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

In interpreting the claims, in light of the specification and the applicant's arguments filed on 4/30/07, the Examiner finds the claimed invention to be patentably distinct from the prior art of record.

8. Petrovykhet al. (US 2002/0055975 A1), teach method and apparatus for intelligent routing of instant messaging presence protocol (MPP) events among a group of customer service representatives wherein receiving a message from plurality of client messaging application and determined the destination of the message (abstract; page 7, paragraph 73; figure 10 & 11; page 4, paragraph 37; page 6, paragraph 70; page 10, paragraph 110; page 11, paragraph 114-117).

9. Auerbach et al. (US 6,549,937 B1), teach system and method for multi-protocol communication in a computer network, wherein translating a calling convention of the message to a calling convention of a base code (abstract; col 7, lines 1-16; col 8, lines 4-38; col 8, lines 4-38).

10. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance.

The examiner has found that the prior art of record does not appear to teach or suggest or render obvious the claimed limitations in combination with the specific added limitations as recited in independent claims 1, 13, 25, 37, 52 & 67 and subsequent dependent claims. The prior arts of record failed to teach or suggest individually or in

combination that receiving a message from plurality of client messaging applications, wherein the message includes a request to query at least one information database for returning an information set back to client messaging application; translating, in response to the selecting autonomous computer program, the message in the calling convention of the base code to a calling convention of the autonomous computer; transmitting the message to the autonomous computer program which has been determined; and also receiving information from the autonomous computer program in a return message as set forth in independent claims 1, 13, 25, 37, 52 & 67. Claims 1, 6-13, 18-25, 30-37, 42-49, 52, 56-64, & 67 are allowed because of the combination of other limitations and the limitation listed above.

The examiner finds the Applicant's argument on pages 27-29 of the Remarks filed on 4/30/07 to be persuasive. The applicant argued in substance that the combination of prior art of records fail to disclose the features of the invention the presently claimed invention now more clearly recites that a user sends an instant message requesting information and based on the type of information requested, a bot is determined to be the destination and subsequently selected for reception of the message (see Remark, page 28 and see Specification, page 13, lines with reference to figure 2A).

Contact Information

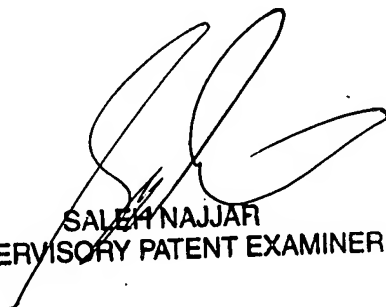
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thuong (Tina) Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-

272-3864, and the fax number is 571-273-3864. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 AM-5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Saleh Najjar can be reached on 571-272-4006. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Thuong (Tina) Nguyen
Patent Examiner/Art Unit 2155



SALEH NAJJAR
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER